

Spec. Code: 4120
Occ. Area: 12
Work Area: 444
Prob. Period: 6 mo.
Prom. Line: none
Effective Date: 12/05/75

ACTIVITY THERAPIST

Function of Job

An Activity Therapist works in a health care facility under general supervision and in consultation with other facility staff (physicians, psychologists, facility program directors) planning and directing educational, recreational, and social activities therapeutically designed to help patients regain physical or mental functioning or adjust to their handicaps.

Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities

1. organizes and directs an activity therapy program based on facility patients' needs and potentials. Examples of activities are crafts (sewing, jewelry making), arts (painting, music), entertainment (movies, reading), social functions, games, and instruction in self-care
2. instructs and supervises patients engaged in activities, observes and evaluates patient's progress, writes progress notes on patient's chart, recommends and/or makes appropriate therapy adjustments
3. interviews patients and consults with facility staff (physicians) to plan the level of activity participation for a patient's therapy
4. meets with facility staff (physicians, program directors) to evaluate, develop, and/or adapt the activities program for the current patient participants
5. is responsible for the physical operation of the activities program including maintenance of equipment, supply inventory, and scheduling of rooms
6. may supervise student, staff, or volunteer assistants
7. performs related duties as assigned

Minimum Acceptable Qualifications

CREDENTIALS TO BE VERIFIED BY PLACEMENT OFFICER

1. (a) Bachelor's degree with a major related to activity therapy (such as recreation, occupational therapy, music, or group therapy) with 10 weeks field experience

or

- (b) high school graduation and successful completion of an activity therapy training program

or

- (c) graduation from a school of occupational therapy accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE JOB

1. working knowledge of the methods, techniques, and problems of activity therapy
2. ability to work effectively and therapeutically with patients, individually and in groups